

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. Chromium-free leather having a waterproofness, measured as penetration time according to DIN 53338, of at least 30 min.  
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2. Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that the penetration time according to DIN 53338 is at least 2 hours.
3. Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that it has an  
10 Fe content of 1 to 6% by weight, based on dry weight, determined after ashing.
4. Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that it has an  
15 Si content of at least 0.2% by weight, based on dry weight, determined as silicate after ashing.
5. Chromium-free leather according to Claim 3, characterized in that the leather contains a silicone.
- 20 6. Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that the water vapour permeability, measured according to DIN 53333, is greater than 0.8 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>h.
- 25 7. A process for imparting water repellency to a leather tanned without chromium comprising treating the leather tanned without chromium with silicones.
8. The process of Claim 7, characterized in that the silicone used is as a water repellent.

9. Process for the production of chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that leather tanned without chromium is optionally retanned and is treated with a water repellent.
- 5 10. Process for the production of chromium-free leathers according to Claim 9, characterized in that an iron-tanned leather is optionally retanned and is then treated with a water repellent, which is a silicone.
- 10 11. Process according to Claim 10, characterized in that a pelt to be tanned is subjected, prior to iron tanning, to an acidic pretreatment.
12. A process for preparing covering materials in the automotive industry, as upper leather in the shoe industry, as leather for bags or as saddle leather comprising providing chromium-free leather according to Claim 1.